



## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8  
999 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET - SUITE 500  
DENVER, CO 80202-2466  
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

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2007154

Ref: 8EPR-SR

November 26, 2002

Mr. Michael Maes, President  
Clayton, Elyria,  
and Swansea Environmental Coalition  
2332 East 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Denver, CO 80216

RE: Vasquez Boulevard/ Interstate 70 Site

Dear Mr. Maes:

EPA is making progress on the final cleanup decision for the residential soils in the Vasquez Boulevard/Interstate 70 (VB/I-70) site. Currently, there is an important opportunity for the Clayton, Elyria, and Swansea Environmental Coalition (CEASE) to provide EPA with a statement for our internal National Remedy Review Board.

As you know, in May 2002, EPA and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) developed a proposed cleanup plan for residential soils in the VB/I-70 site. We received extensive comments on the plan from residents of the Swansea, Elyria, Clayton, Cole, and Globeville neighborhoods. In response to those comments, EPA is in the process of evaluating a new cleanup alternative, requiring soil removal at properties where arsenic is greater than 70 parts per million or lead is greater than 400 parts per million. This would require much more extensive soil removal and would cost 82% more than what we proposed in May 2002.

As a result, EPA is convening our "National Remedy Review Board (NRRB)". This board reviews new cleanup proposals in the Superfund program where the cost is 20% or more than the original proposed cleanup plan. The NRRB will review our new alternative and provide us with their recommendation. Once EPA Region VIII receives the recommendation, we will prepare a new proposed cleanup plan that includes this new alternative, and ask the public to comment on it. EPA will make a final cleanup decision only after considering public comments on the new proposed cleanup plan.

The NRRB is made up of senior EPA managers, technical and policy experts from EPA Headquarters, and representatives from all ten EPA Regions. Their review will be very useful to EPA Region VIII, CDPHE, the CEASE Coalition, the rest of the VB/I-70 community, and all the other interested people who have worked on developing the best solution for the arsenic and lead in residential soils at the VB/I-70 Environmental Justice site. For example, the NRRB may have valuable suggestions for how we can implement the new alternative in a more cost effective way.



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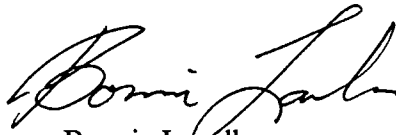
At Superfund sites where EPA has awarded a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG), we offer the TAG recipient an opportunity to summarize in writing (10 pages or less) any concerns or issues that they believe important for the NRRB to consider.

If you'd like to provide the CEASE Coalition's views in writing, I encourage you to do so. Just send your submission directly to me at the following address by December 6, 2002:

Bonnie Lavelle  
Remedial Project Manager  
EPA Region 8  
999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300  
Mail Code 8EPR-SR  
Denver, CO 80202

I will ensure that your submission is sent to the NRRB with sufficient time for them to consider it before they make a recommendation. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call me at (303) 312-6579, or Jennifer Chergo at (303)312-6601.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bonnie Lavelle".

Bonnie Lavelle  
Remedial Project Manager

cc: Lorraine Granado  
Anthony Thomas  
Antonia Montoya  
Joan Hooker  
Sandy Douglas  
Linda Armer